

# ABOLITIONNC ACTION & IMPACT

## UPDATES

Strings to Freedom benefit concert - Sept 17, 2022

13 districts and 5 charter schools to use Protect Our Students this school year including Guilford County

8 NC districts to use FreewayNC curriculum this school year including Guilford County and Charlotte Mecklenburg

Tea & Top Hats raised nearly \$130,000 to continue awareness and prevention education

AbolitionNC welcomes Alex Alston as Director of Operations

Cindy King, ED, appointed Co-Chair for the Training and Education Committee at the NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking

## Local Trafficked Youth Reached

AbolitionNC and The Phoenix Alliance are partnering to impact lives at the Guilford County Juvenile Detention Center.

Through the use of AbolitionNC's human trafficking curriculum, The Phoenix Alliance Co-Founders and FreewayNC Youth Educators, Ethan and Kimberly Wheeler, are connecting with and educating teens in the detention center. Ethan Wheeler said it is estimated that 85% of the female juvenile population at the center are trafficking victims.

"The FreewayNC curriculum has become the foundation of our connection with the girls, opening doors for many opportunities to foster long-term relationships with struggling youth," Kimberly said.

"We recently spoke with a girl who was in jail again and had been through the program before. She was out with one of her friends, also a former student of ours, and they saw something concerning and remembered the number for the human trafficking hotline. She was

also in a situation when she had to choose between potential harm or getting locked up again, and she

chose to go with the police because of our warnings for her safety," Kimberly said.

The Wheelers believe that most of the girls don't realize they are victims of trafficking until they are taught the lessons. Through the

animated videos, they connect with the characters and realize it is telling their story. *(continued on pg. 2)*

**"The FreewayNC curriculum has become the foundation of our connection with the girls."**

**FREEWAYNC**  
AWARENESS & PREVENTION  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING CURRICULUM



- FREE Curriculum
- Animated student videos
- Safety-focused materials
- Teacher-friendly lessons
- Online training included
- Expert-approved content
- Trauma-informed approach
- Aligns with NC DPI objectives
- Well suited for national use

**FreewayNC.org**



**Give FREEDOM at [AbolitionNC.org/give](https://AbolitionNC.org/give)**



## A Letter from Board Chair, Chelsea Spohn

On behalf of the board, I want to express a great sense of gratitude and admiration to those that continue to support AbolitionNC.

Staff members work creatively and consistently to expand the reach of the curriculum via the training of school personnel and adoption of the curriculum by new districts, Wayne, Alleghany, Gaston, New Hanover and Charlotte-Mecklenburg. We are grateful for the completion of another successful Tea & Top Hats following a two-year hiatus with faithful donors increasing our committed, monthly donations. Positive relationships continue to be enhanced with law

enforcement agencies, statewide anti-human trafficking organizations, and various service providers.

Congratulations to our amazing Executive Director, Cindy King for her appointment as co-chair for the Training and Education Committee at NCCAHT. We also want to say a special thank you to Tom Schultz, our former Treasurer, for his service on the board since 2015 and the invaluable guidance and support he has provided through these many years. The board recognizes the contributions of so many friends!

“Great indeed are our opportunities; great also is our responsibility.” -William Wilberforce, British abolitionist

## Welcome Alex Alston, Director of Operations

As the newest team member of AbolitionNC, I am honored to be a part of such a rewarding and compassionate organization. With my prior work experience and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Appalachian State University and a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from UNCG, AbolitionNC was the perfect home for me. While having a passion for helping our community--especially our youth--I am beyond thrilled to be able to assist with human trafficking awareness and prevention in North Carolina Schools!



## Local Trafficked Youth Reached *(Continued from pg. 1)*

“The curriculum is so well done and so thorough. It tells you the questions to ask. It tells you the things to say. It helps you with conversations starters. The videos are excellent and engaging,” Ethan said. “There’s nothing else I know of that’s as effective as this curriculum happening in the state. If we don’t educate children on the warning signs and the tactics of traffickers then predators roam free and unchallenged. This is where most of our time, focus and energy should be. The more this gets out in the state, the fewer kids we’re going to see falling prey,” Ethan said.

Staff from the center have also indicated that they see a difference in the youth who are exposed to the curriculum. “The goal is to empower our youth through education, while bringing about a heightened level of awareness to the situations they have been placed in. Recognizing the dangers of their personal choices is key to preventing further abuse and trauma,” said Teresa Cuthbertson, Program Manager at the center.

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# AbolitionNC Trains Over 24,000 School Staff

AbolitionNC is gearing up for another year of training NC school staff using the *Protect Our Students* online course. AbolitionNC trained over 24,000 NC school staff during the 2020-2021 school year. The training prepares staff to recognize and respond to trafficking and child sexual abuse (CSA). Guilford County Schools was among the 14 districts who participated. NC law requires staff to receive training on trafficking and CSA biennially.

“It’s incredible the impact we’re having in North Carolina classrooms. The teachers that we’ve trained work with over 220,000 students. We’re giving these teachers the information they need to identify and respond to suspected abuse or trafficking. And we’re able to provide this training at no cost,” said Cindy King, Executive Director.

A study of *Protect Our Students* was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the training experience. Results support the evidence-based effectiveness of *Protect Our Students*. The study also establishes the validity of the training as a trauma-informed resource.

**1,264** SCHOOL STAFF TAKING ACTION

**843**  
SCHOOL REPORTS

**224**  
POLICE REPORTS

**85**  
TRAFFICKING HOTLINE CONTACTS

**303**  
DSS REPORTS

**74**  
CYBERTIP CONTACTS

**150**  
CHILDHELP CONTACTS

**927**  
WATCH/SPEAK TO A CHILD

**117**  
SAY SOMETHING HOTLINE CONTACTS

*Protect Our Students* post-training survey respondents indicated they planned to take these actions after the training as it related to a specific child or situation that came to mind during the training.

## Join Us & Support AbolitionNC

### Monthly Support Partners

Your monthly gift, whether it’s \$25 or \$250, allows us to look to the future and plan, knowing our monthly expenses are covered.

### Business & Personal Sponsorships

Sponsorship are available for our upcoming event, Strings to Freedom. Visit [AbolitionNC.org/concert](https://AbolitionNC.org/concert) for sponsor levels and benefits.

### Wilberforce Circle Members

Our Wilberforce members provide key support to our organization through gifts of \$2,500 or more.

### Dollar a Day

A gift of \$365 is a simple way to have a daily impact on the work we do.

### Employee Donor Match

Check if your employer offers a charitable giving match program.

### Guest Speaker

AbolitionNC can provide a brief presentation to your church, organization, or business.

### Prayer Team

Visit our website to join our Facebook Prayer Group.

### Volunteer

Visit our website to learn about volunteer opportunities.

AbolitionNC is a 501c3

**Give FREEDOM at [AbolitionNC.org/give](https://AbolitionNC.org/give)**