



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 16, 2022**

## **COURTHOUSE STEPS TURN RED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Uniontown, PA** – The Fayette/Greene Human Trafficking Task Force will bring the Red Sand Project to the Fayette County Courthouse next week.

Hosted in partnership with the Fayette County Crime Victims Center, Fayette County Chapter of Soroptomists and Greene County Partners, the Red Sand Project is a participatory artwork created by Molly Gochman that uses sidewalk interventions and earthwork installations to create educational opportunities about human trafficking and how many victims “fall through the cracks.”

The event takes place 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 19. All Fayette County citizens are invited to participate in pouring red sand into pavement cracks on the courthouse steps at 61 East Main St. in Uniontown.

Formed in 2009, the Fayette/Greene Human Trafficking Task Force regularly offers trainings, workshops, conferences and events in our area communities.

Task Force Co-chair and Penn State Fayette Associate Professor Jo Ann Jankoski, D.Ed., said her organization, along with its event partners, are “committed in educating our community members, supporting survivors and putting an end to this heinous crime.”

“This event is a result of conversation with our task force members who believed we needed to continue our efforts to enhance our community’s awareness of human trafficking,” Jankoski said. “This is an important event because human trafficking is here in Fayette County. It’s closer than you think.”

Jankoski said everyone is encouraged to attend because “anyone can fall victim to human trafficking.”

“Our children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, wives, husbands, significant others and grandparents; it’s our responsibility to stop this,” she said. “Come learn the signs and types of human trafficking and how force, coercion and fraud is used to exploit an individual.”

Learn more about the Fayette/Greene Human Trafficking Task Force on Facebook. To report a tip or seek help from trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text “HELP” or “INFO” to BeFree (233733).

To learn more about the Red Sand Project event, email Jankoski at [jsx17@psu.edu](mailto:jsx17@psu.edu).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

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For more information, contact Kristi Kassimer Harper, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, [kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info) or Kaylie Moore, Community Relations Coordinator, at 724-430-1200 Ext. 1611, [kmoore@fayettepa.org](mailto:kmoore@fayettepa.org).