



PATH'S ORIGIN STORY

Friends,

No matter how you have come to be acquainted with PATH, we are glad you are here. We wanted to tell you the story of why and how PATH came to be.

Do you know the trafficking statistics for Kentucky? **During the 2021 reporting period, there were 312 reported incidents involving 379 alleged victims.**

Child Trafficking Stats in KY from Department of Community Based Services 2021

Until Human Trafficking is eradicated, PATH is on a mission to keep educating. We hope you enjoy the education about PATH this newsletter holds.

IN THE BEGINNING

We have the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN) to thank for getting the early version of PATH going. "In 2008, a corporate stance opposing human trafficking was adopted. It reads, in part, "We, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Family, stand in support of human rights by firmly opposing trafficking of all persons, especially of women and children, for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor." - *The Journey 2013 Vol. II*

If you live in Louisville, KY you understand KY Derby time is not just the first Saturday in May but includes a monthlong series of events preceding Derby. In 2013, a few Louisville Sisters of Charity of Nazareth held a public prayer service, during Derby week, in support of the SCN corporate stance mentioned above. They chose to repeat the service, in person, during Derby week from 2014-2019.



Photo Credit: Louisville Courier Journal, April 29, 2014

Our Founders

After the 2014 Derby Week service, The SCN were joined by the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and the Dominican Sisters of Peace and they began meeting regularly in May, 2014. The Founders are:

Theresa Butler, OSUA; Sr Julie Driscoll, SCN; Rosetta Fackler; Marqueax Gray; Betty Anne Hamilton, SCNA; Sr Jo Ann Jansing, OSU; Sr Paula Kleine-Kracht, OSU; Sr Judy Morris, OP; Amy Nace-Degonda; JoAnn Paulin, SCNA; Sr Joetta Venneman, PBVM; and Sr Rita Ann Wigginton, OSU.

This founding group, which included trafficking survivors, settled on two goals: 1) Education and outreach regarding human trafficking and 2) The long-term goal of establishing a home/shelter for survivors of human trafficking.

We give our sincerest thanks to these brave women who saw the need to inform others about the price of human trafficking.



Sr Julie Driscoll, SCN, PATH Board 2015-2021

In Her Own Words

"As a Catholic Sister, I had heard a good bit about human trafficking since there had been both a national and international group of Sisters working against human trafficking. I knew it happened daily but increased during major sporting events. From my experience in working on justice issues, I knew that prayer was a way to soften hard realities and help people to hear them. After a couple of years, (of prayer services) there was a suggestion to start a permanent project so we worked on and received non-profit status in 2015. Some who attended the first prayers made up the group who became the initial board and, after some struggles, named the group, PATH Coalition of Kentucky."

MEET US IN THE MIDDLE

Formation of PATH as an official 501(3)(c) and beyond

Thanks to the good work done by the Founders, it was determined a new group was needed to carry on development of the two goals. In order to do this, a non-profit was formed in 2015, and PATH Coalition of KY was born. Again, we have another set of women founders to thank for being the first Board of Directors.

Theresa Hayden, President; Marqueax



Gray, Vice-President, and JoAnn Paulin, Secretary / Treasurer. Board Members at Large were: **Theresa Butler, OSUA; Sr. Julie Driscoll, SCN; Sr. Judy Morris, OP; Amy Nace-Degonda; Sr. Joetta Venneman, PBVM; and Sr. Rita Ann Wigginton, OSU.** Contributing Members were: **Rosetta Fackler; Betty Anne Hamilton, SCNA; and Julie Horen-Easterly.**

Let's Take a Look At the Middle Path Years

- Purchased a billboard around Derby, 2015 educating about Human Trafficking (Goal 1)
- Received official non-profit status in Oct. 2015
- Began education and awareness programming primarily in houses of faith and universities (Goal 1)
- Gained national exposure in 2016 by participating in the North American Ursuline Conference (Goal 1)
- Began investigating purchase of property (Goal 2)
- Travelled to Safe Houses in Chicago, Nashville, Birmingham and New Orleans for model and inspiration (Goal 2)
- 2017 and 2018 saw increased collaboration with other organizations either PATH presenting educational programs or being presented to by groups such as the Polaris Project (Goal 1)
- 2017 saw renewed focus on finding a property to provide shelter for those being trafficked and also development of partnerships with those organizations essential to housing and zoning (Goal 2)
- Created new educational programs centering on youth and digital safety and debuted this training at Presentation Academy Louisville in 2018 (Goal 1)
- 2017 and 2018 were time to really get the ducks in a row when it came to running a non-profit. Policies and procedures were put in place and new Board members came on
- Marketing and promotion got their chance to shine in 2018 when marketing materials and a PATH website were created (Goal 1)
- Donations and grants mean everything to non-profits and PATH is no different. Being the recipient of a grant in 2018 allowed PATH to hire a part-time administrator for two years
- 2019 saw the evolution of a 3 year strategic plan led by, then president, Carrie Bohnert
- 2019/2020/2021 have seen students from schools of social work at Western Kentucky University, Marshall University and Campbellsville University intern with PATH in macro practice field placements
- Covid effected many non-profits and PATH felt that effect as well and pivoted to virtual. In 2020, the Derby week prayer vigil was held virtually (Goal 1)
- 2021 saw the receipt of 2 grants which allowed PATH to hire marketing and programming coordinators (Goal 1)
- 2022 Educated over 1200 people about human trafficking over



Sr Rita Wigginton, OSU, PATH Board, 2015-2021

In Her Own Words

"Being a part of PATH's start up through its fledging days to now has been an honor and a privilege for the past 6+ years! There have been many struggles including coming to clarity about our Mission and Vision as well as coming to a stable board membership. As I step down from the Board, I am confident the leadership of PATH is in very capable and devoted hands. PATH will flourish!"

IT'S NOT THE END

It's Just the Beginning

PATH has a 7 year itch and it's an itch to GROW!

- We want to grow our educational programming and outreach to help reduce the statistics numbers you read at the beginning of this newsletter.
- We want to grow to be known as the established educational resource so we can educate more people and more organizations to recognize human trafficking and what to do about it.
- We want to grow and translate our educational programming into Spanish to reach more communities.



In Her Own Words

"PATH has a strong foundational beginning. Our non-profit has been gifted with talented and passionate people in the first 7 years. We are now at a crossroads of transition and this is the very nature of healthy non-profits. PATH has grown and learned in that process. The original leaders now pass the torch to the next leaders and members. I am confident that PATH will continue to be successful in education and outreach



about the inhumanity of exploiting women, men, and children through the many forms of human trafficking."

Dr. Theresa Hayden, MSSW, PATH Board 2015-2023

We hope you enjoyed this special edition PATH newsletter. It was our opportunity to get our origin story out there, as a celebration and dedication to the past, and a commitment to the future. We hope you learned a lot about us and where we are headed. If you have any questions or want to become involved on the PATH Board send an email to pathcoalitionofky@gmail.com or visit pathcoalitionofky.org.

PATH Coalition of Kentucky | [Website](#)

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