



Global Connection International **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Educating & Empowering Everyday People to Join the Fight
to End Human Trafficking at Home, and around the World!*



www.gciworld.org

From the Desk of the President

Dear GCI Family & Friends,

In a letter I wrote exactly one year ago, I referenced *the pressures of an ever-changing world, the measure of uncertainty, and even the little bit of fear that comes along with it at times*. Having said those things back then, little did I realize just how intense some of those *changes* would be - and just how *fearful* people would become! Extreme change, in a short amount of time, can often cause us to lose our bearings and sense of direction. And if we lose our sense of direction we can quickly become susceptible to paralyzing fear – the kind that can cause normal, everyday people to become disoriented, irrational and even dangerously angry. This is exactly the point when young people, especially, become vulnerable to sexual predators who use fraud, coercion and even violent force to manipulate them for huge financial gain.

OUR KIDS are THEIR TARGETS...and it MUST STOP!

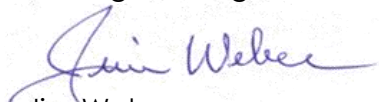
These predators will use a sophisticated “grooming” process that may often take several months in order to gain complete trust within the context of their new intimate relationship. This sometimes even includes going home to meet Mom and Dad, and/or going on a vacation trip with the family. Then, the next party isn't the expected, innocent gathering of classmates...and life suddenly becomes a horrific whirlpool they can't find a way out of. Our extended family has been affected by this, and chances are that you don't have to look very far within your own circle of family and friends to find someone who has been affected as well. It's been hidden in plain sight for way too long!

Global Connection is working hard to stay on the cutting edge in our efforts to provide awareness and preventative measures to American young people and their families regarding the dangers of human trafficking. I hope you will take a few minutes to read through the following pages of our 2018 Impact Report to learn more about what we are doing to educate the general public, and be encouraged about what you can do to personally get involved and make a difference. This is no longer just a cause to give to...It is an emergency!

We need everyday people like you to become “Emergency Responders” - to take a stand and get involved. You just might help save a child's life!

Let us show you how we can help fortify your neighborhood, place of business, school and/or church against human trafficking—and provide some encouragement to, and heightened awareness about others working within this field in your community at the same time. I would love to hear from you!

Serving Him Together with You,


Jim Weber
President & CEO



A Year in Review

OFF TO A GREAT START IN 2018!

February found GCI President, Jim Weber, and his wife, JoAnn, teaming up with a new friend and ministry partner from South Carolina for a two-week trip to Cambodia. The purpose of this trip was to organize a Cambodian leadership team that would help plan and host a "Train the Trainer" Business Seminar in Phnom Penh later in October and to attend the opening sessions of the Agape International Missions' (AIM) Annual Staff Retreat. GCI was able to help fund both of these impactful events with help from many of you, partnered with a grant from the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation. Over **450 lives** were directly impacted as a result. THANK YOU!



Jim Speaking in Cambodia

NEW FRIEND & MINISTRY PARTNER



JoAnn & Glenda

Late in 2017, we received a phone call from a long-time friend in Florence, SC. He told us of a neighbor who attended their church and had an unusual passion for the fight against sex trafficking. So much so, that she was taking time out of her busy schedule as a devoted mom & CEO of their thriving medical business to enroll in an online program to get her master's degree in the field of Human Trafficking. Knowing of our long-time involvement and commitment to this battle, he wondered if he could introduce us as a possible resource for future reference. That single phone call led us to one of the most meaningful, productive relationships we have experienced during our entire 18 years with GCI...and we have had some really special ones!

By the end of our first conversation, Glenda Skipper was "all in" to join Jim & JoAnn for the next trip to Cambodia where we would introduce her to Agape International Missions. AIM has the most impactful ministry working the front lines of the battle against human trafficking in Cambodia and other parts of Southeast Asia that we know of. Deeply touched by what she saw and learned on this trip, Glenda came home with the burner under her pot turned on "High" and she hasn't slowed down since! Now, less than a year later, she has completed her MA degree, started her own organization, *One Child at A Time*, and is impacting her community and the state of South Carolina in their fight against human trafficking in a very powerful way. Her contagious personality and outstanding communication skills have won the hearts of others working on this depraved problem. The local sheriff's department has even invited her to move her new office into their facilities as they collaborate to tackle this threat to their community together. You will hear a bit more about Glenda on page 7!



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A Year in Review

OPPORTUNITIES AND SUCCESSES DEFINE GCI'S FUTURE FOCUS

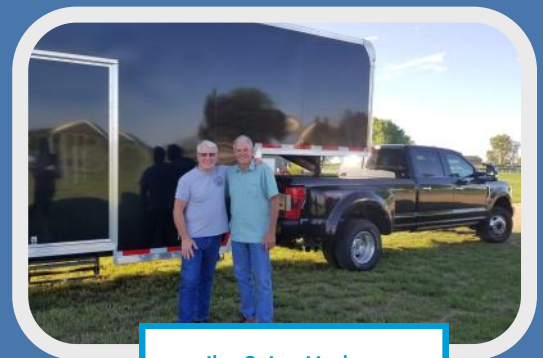
As GCI continued to evaluate current trends, opportunities and challenges facing the non-profit sector, we found ourselves in a good place to make adjustments and bring clarity to our focus as we closed out 2018 and look ahead to the new year.

After 18 years working on projects all around the world, our staff and Board of Directors have agreed that we should focus our time and resources on the very serious and escalating problem of human trafficking that is facing American families in every demographic across the United States. While there are more and more organizations showing up to join in this fight, the vast majority of manpower and resources are dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of trafficking survivors. Unfortunately, the chances of a victim being rescued is only about 1 in 100 world-wide, so there is a never-ending need of help on that end. However, GCI is being very purposeful in our commitment to join this fight from the front end—and do everything we possibly can to keep it from ever happening in the first place!



INCREDIBLE NEW RESOURCES!

In late 2017, we received commitments for two incredible financial contributions totaling \$155,000 that paved the way for us to launch our Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Campaign. With these gifts & specific plans in place for an educational experience trailer and a vehicle to haul it with – we were able to pay cash for a beautiful Ford F-350, diesel pick-up truck in January and place our order for a 44' custom-built, fifth-wheel trailer. Jim Weber and Joe Hudson of Longmont, CO drove out to pick the trailer up at the factory in Elkhart, Indiana the second week of May. A new, meaningful relationship developed out of that quick trip to the Midwest!



Jim & Joe Hudson



A Year in Review

OUR FIRST CAMPAIGN VENUES AND EVENTS

With the “wrapping” of the truck and trailer completed and the build-out of the interior display with over \$35,000 worth of media & graphics finished, we were ready for our first events of the summer season. Little did we realize that our first **23 days** of formal engagement would give us exposure to over **700,000 event attendees**, and the opportunity to personally engage with right at **2,700 individuals, kids and their families**.

Wellington, Colorado

Our very first guests wandered into the trailer while we were still setting up on Main Street in Wellington for the 4th of July Celebration. These two preteens promptly gathered up an arm-full of our flyers and distributed them to all the guests who had filled up the adjoining parking lot for the early-morning pancake breakfast! Thousands of people were in this small Northern Colorado town for the day and the warm reception we experienced was a great encouragement to our team.



Cheyenne Frontier Days

As we began to learn the ropes for traveling with “The Big Boys” in order to access fuel and parking along the way, our next stop was Cheyenne Frontier Days!” Here, we were welcomed to join the festivities at the world’s largest

outdoor rodeo, the Daddy of ‘em All! After only four days there, we came home with invitations all the way from Saskatchewan, Canada clear down to the Navajo Indian reservation in Buckeye, AZ.

Larimer County Fair & Rodeo

Our next stop was Loveland, CO, where we spent five days parked right at the main entrance to the Larimer County Fair. They were long, 12-hour days, but we had a great group of family and friends sign up to help host the exhibit and share the message with young people and their families from around the state.



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A Year in Review

JeffCo Fair & Festival

We rounded out our August schedule along the Colorado Front Range in Golden at the Jefferson County Fair. This event was not as well-attended as the others, but we met some very supportive and influential people there that have opened productive, new doors for future engagements.



South Carolina

Remember our new ministry partner from SC? Well, when Glenda sets her mind to something, it happens! She first arranged an invitation from Darlington Raceway to come and set up for the NASCAR races over Labor Day weekend, and then orchestrated a month full of opportunities to share our message in schools, churches & other public events throughout North & South Carolina. The Lake City Creative Alliance and Cornerstone Baptist Church afforded us our first opportunities to present in public school and church settings. Unfortunately, Hurricane Florence cut our trip short, but overall, the events were a huge success!



Lake City Community Center

Glenda and her newly organized board and team of volunteers also raised nearly \$15,000 in cash, donated meals, lodging and fuel to pay for this 4,000 mile trip. In return, TV and other media coverage of our collaborative effort helped provide a powerful launch for her new organization in her home community.



Cornerstone Baptist Church

NATIONAL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE
1-888-373-7878



Lake City Community Center



A Year in Review

Colorado Farm Bureau Opens the Door for New Relationships & Opportunities in Rural Communities

Every once in a while, we are blessed and encouraged by something quite unexpected...such is the case with GCI's relationship with the Colorado Farm Bureau (CFB). While at Larimer County Fair in Loveland last August, we met some very special people who shared our growing concerns for the escalating human trafficking problem finding its way into the rural communities around our state. One of those individuals was Cathie Swanson. She serves on the Governor's Colorado Human Trafficking Council and the State Women's Leadership Committee for the Colorado Farm Bureau in District 3. Cathie was extremely complementary of our Awareness Campaign & Mobile Educational Experience and has played a very important role in introducing our project to the entire CFB network.



We were invited to attend the Colorado Farm Bureau Annual Membership Meetings over the weekend of November 15th–18th at the Renaissance Hotel Denver Stapleton. We had a booth inside the conference center and hosted guests in the Mobile Educational Experience in the hotel parking lot. We had the opportunity to make presentations at both their County President's Council luncheon and the Safety & Health Committee luncheon. As a result of our interaction with this "Salt of the Earth" group of farm and ranch families from all around the State, we have had numerous invitations to work on bringing this educational exhibit to events in several counties on the Western Slope, as well as to locations in Eastern Colorado.

These relationships have led to our very first invitation to bring the exhibit to a Colorado school district. After working with the school district in South Carolina, we are hopeful that this Colorado "first" will help build a meaningful level of trust and understanding that will open doors for other districts in the near future.

We are grateful to the Colorado Farm Bureau for their trust and enthusiastic response to our effort to "Help Protect America's Families from Human Trafficking."



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A Year in Review

Endorsements from Colleagues & Community Leaders

Some of the most rewarding results of our involvement so far have been the opportunities to raise awareness about the work of other like-minded organizations who are engaged in the fight against human trafficking. The presence of our unique mobile educational experience has drawn significant media attention, and provided a powerful back-drop from which these local organizations can be interviewed and elevated in their own communities with coverage they might

not have received otherwise! This is especially meaningful since they are the ones who will continue to do the hard work long after we are gone. We recently received this letter from One Child at A Time in Florence, SC. Their Founder and CEO, Glenda Skipper, is now speaking in multiple schools & presenting at local community groups each month. It's been thrilling to see her organization grow, and her platform being used to educate the communities around South Carolina.



Glenda Skipper
Founder and CEO

Dear Jim,

I just wanted to take a few minutes and thank you and the folks at Global Connection International for coming to South Carolina and bringing your mobile unit to help educate our community on how to combat human trafficking through education. I have studied Human Trafficking in many different countries and I have found that it is easier to educate our children on the prevention of Human Trafficking today than it is to rescue them tomorrow. Your organization made this epiphany come to fruition through GCI's education mobile unit. We had just launched our non-profit One Child at A Time when you arrived and the education mobile unit that your organization brought helped open so many doors for our organization. Our local newspaper and television station's all of a sudden wanted to hear about Human Trafficking because of Global Connection International's education mobile unit that was coming to our area. Through your organization and the tools, you shared with our organization we have been able to get into our local schools and Educate our children on the dangers of Human Trafficking.

I have granddaughters who attend public schools, one in Kindergarten and one in third grade. They are assigned a tablet and a laptop to do school work on. Here in the south, our children get to take them home where they have access to unsupervised time on the internet. This is very dangerous and we are risking our kid's safety and lives. As you know a child predator uses apps to connect with our children, build a relationship and then force them into human trafficking through force, fraud and coercion. Your organization helped us learn how to educate not only our children but our educators as well. Our State has rescued over 300 children in the past two years from human trafficking. One child is too many.

Through GCI's efforts to educate our organization and community we have been able to educate over 2,500 children in the past four months. One Child at A Time has now partnered with our state and local government in efforts to combat human trafficking. The impact of your education mobile unit can never be measured. So thank you for your heart and desire to Fight for our children against this horrific crime.

In His Grace,

Glenda

Glenda Skipper
Founder and CEO



Please go to our website to see additional letters from the colleagues and community leaders we are working with.

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OUR MISSION
"Our mission is to eliminate modern slavery one person at a time. We work to prevent human trafficking through education, rescue trafficked individuals through intervention, and restore human dignity through affirmation."



A Year in Review

Providing Long-term, Sustainable Tools

While the United States Awareness Campaign demanded attention, GCI continued to play an important role in promoting the long-term sustainable tools for our cross-cultural ministry partners by way of **"Train the Trainer" business seminars**. Our partnership with **Get HOPE Global (GHG)** over the past two years has been meaningful & productive – producing over 450 successful, new small businesses that are changing the future for families participating in programs in Cambodia, Ghana, and Tanzania. By fully funding the initial business seminars and introducing GHG to trustworthy indigenous ministry partners, the stage is set for their ongoing success. Hundreds of lives have already been impacted, and hundreds more stand to benefit from their curriculum, microloans and influence.



Exciting New Investment Opportunity in Cambodia!



Jim Weber has been instrumental in introducing the FastBlocs building system to business, community, government and church leaders in Cambodia over the past couple of years, and we made great progress in those negotiations in 2018. Keat Kove, a building contractor and one of GCI's long-time ministry partners, accompanied Jim on a trip to Mexico to tour a FastBlocs manufacturing facility. They also had the chance to tour a number of homes constructed with the product - and Keat returned home to Cambodia sold on the concept. Construction projects are booming in Phnom Penh and the country is running out of the red clay used in their traditional building bricks, so the time is right - and the interest is running high. Cambodian businessmen and church leaders have put

up the first \$250,000 to build a FastBlocs factory and investors stand to reap double-digit returns on their money! The company also commits half of their annual net profits to ministry projects. This is a *Win-Win Business as Mission* project at its best.

Once up and running at full capacity, this factory should generate nearly \$1 million of annual income for local outreach projects.

NOW, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!

TO LEARN MORE GO TO FASTBLOCS.COM



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A Year in Review

GCI Provides Oversight and Accountability to Protect the

Stewardship of Our Donors

There is an extremely difficult side to the management of the non-profit & ministry world that is often overlooked and neglected. As a result, there are occasionally contributions given in good faith that end up in that infamous "big black hole" and we never really know what happens to them. Sometimes this happens due to honest mistakes or mis-management of projects, while other times, it is the result of self-serving opportunism on the part of those who are the recipients of our financial partnership and charity. GCI found itself in the middle of situations this past year representing both these scenarios.



International Business & Education Consultants (IBEC)

We are deeply grateful for our new relationship with IBEC, a group of Christian businessmen and women representing a wide-variety of disciplines within the business world. Their contribution to "BAM" (Business as Mission) is to come alongside struggling businesses overseas to troubleshoot and help restore/maximize profitability. We are pleased to announce that by networking with IBEC, we've been able to assist one of our best partnerships in Ghana in reversing a \$60,000/year deficit in their operations. Their beautiful, state-of-the-art water bottling plant was built to support a radio station and other ministries in a remote region of

Ghana. Not only was this necessary for the business itself, but it provided great relief to key donors who have provided over \$1,500,000 towards this project over the past few years.

In the name of good stewardship and integrity, we continue to work on bringing resolution to accountability issues & potential misappropriation of funds with a partner in another African country where we have been involved for a very long time. Therein lies the disappointment and wearisome, but altogether necessary work of the ministry. We are grateful for your continued support of our efforts to continue "Connecting People who Care with the World's Greatest Needs!"



Real Partners, Real Impact & Real Results

This battle we're involved in to help protect America's young people and their families from human trafficking is fierce and demanding. We have come to realize that it requires "Special Forces" - a team of individuals who are willing to make sacrificial commitments of their time, talent & treasure to stay actively engaged in their deployment—no matter what it may cost them. These kinds of individuals are few and far between! But, GCI has literally been held together by the incredible, faithful participation of a small band of warriors, and we will be highlighting their inspirational stories throughout the coming year. Today, we honor Dennis Klinker!

(continued next page)



In Memory of Dennis Klinker

September 15, 1947—December 5, 2018

When I think of Dennis, the first two words that come to mind are *Discernment* & *Tenacity*. Non-profit organizations like ours enjoy success and provide impact in direct proportion to the dedication of those who offer their services, wisdom, and resources to the causes they are passionate about. Even amid the fatigue and severe pain Dennis endured during *his* final months with us here on this earth, he continued showing up for meetings and participating in a variety of activities – always the eternal optimist and encourager!



In response to difficult news from his doctor, Dennis posted the following response on facebook.

When the doctor tells you, "you have an expiration date" life can change or at least your perspective. The question I get asked the most, besides "how do I feel," is "how do you stay positive?" For me I have found two things: one is surrendering everything to Jesus. All my life when I have experienced fear I would look for the cause, usually the fear of losing something or someone, I would surrender it to Jesus and trust Him to be in charge. Surrender and trust in God can remove unnecessary drama from your life. So by time I was told, "you have cancer" I really didn't and don't have anything to lose because Jesus already has my life. Closely related to this is accepting that Jesus is in charge regardless (I was told regardless isn't a word) of what life hands you. Learn from everything, including the storms, what is God trying to teach you and how does He want to shape your life. Two is staying outwardly focused on other people, care and celebrate what is happening in their life. I look at what other people are suffering from and I think to myself, 'I don't think I could handle that.' Don't become a navel gazer. If there is a three, it is try to continue your regular schedule. I tried writing a bucket list. What I came up with is having my whole family go to church together once and going camping and fishing with the grandkids. If I was healthy it would be fun to travel but I don't need that to be happy. I am happy where I'm at, being with my wife, helping the local church, doing yard work and odd jobs around the house. Learn to be happy with whatever God gives you. (I think Paul used the word 'content'.)



Dennis will be remembered by his vision for the future and the way he was able to blend grace and truth in dealing with frustrating situations, and even some challenging people along the way! We are grateful to Dennis and his wife, Cheryl, for their generosity in sharing their financial resources and invaluable time. GCI's mission is a little clearer and our future a lot more promising because of their example that will help keep us both relevant and Impactful in the days ahead.



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Global Connection International

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US
PROTECT AMERICA'S
FAMILIES FROM HUMAN
TRAFFICKING!**

**WE COULDN'T DO THIS
WITHOUT YOUR HELP!**

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