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[www.ChildproofAmerica.org](http://www.ChildproofAmerica.org)

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## A Note from the Director

*Pursued in Fort Bend County* In 2016 our world changed forever when our daughter was approached by a “spotter” in her Fort Bend County high school. The role of a “human trafficking spotter” is to identify an individual who is going through a tough time and perceived as vulnerable as a result. A “spotter” will watch social media, listen for gossip around the school, or befriend a potential target in order to obtain information for the purpose of exploitation. A “spotter” will then share the name and cell number of the target with a trafficker and earn a finder’s fee that can range from \$150 - \$2,000.

Our daughter’s information was shared and a trafficker (convicted felon) arranged to meet our daughter on her Fort Bend County high school campus during school hours. This location was picked because it was the only place where her father and I were unable to monitor her activities and where we believed she was safe.

Up until that time, our daughter was respectful, obedient and on track for a promising future. Excelling in Varsity sports and academics, our greatest distraction was which college she would attend that could support her athletic and career goals.

*Lured Away* Days after her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, our daughter was lured from our home by an organized network of traffickers. There are no words to describe the extreme fear and desperation we felt. Unfortunately, our private hell hit social media and countless eyes were watching our crisis unfold. Under debilitating duress, we attempted to navigate law enforcement and direct service options who could help our daughter immediately. Harris County law enforcement, including Vice, Homeland Security and FBI were all engaged.

Even though our case originated out of a Fort Bend high school, the Fort Bend Sheriff’s office refused to engage in a life and death case involving a victim of human trafficking.

About six months after our tragedy began, my husband and I sat down for a 2-hour meeting with top law enforcement from the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s office. We shared names, dates and locations from what we knew of our daughter’s case. We also discussed another Fort Bend human trafficking case that involved a teen from Sugar Land, of which these officers were very aware because those parents also shared details of their daughter’s case.

Even with this concrete, factual knowledge, the sheriff's office continues to wave the banner of "WE DON'T HAVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN FORT BEND COUNTY". As a parent who has been devastated by this horrific crime which nearly took the life of our child, this attitude is a nauseating punch in the gut.

Recently the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office announced a 24/7 hotline for citizens wanting to report human trafficking in Fort Bend. My husband called to let them know that their top officers have information regarding our daughter's case. An officer called back minutes later to say they received the call but asked no details of my daughter's case. The call lasted several minutes.

Yesterday a Fort Bend County officer arrived at my front door, pad and pen in hand, ready to learn of my daughter's case. Officer, you are two years too late.

For security reasons I cannot disclose the status of my daughter's case today. I will say that her and our nightmare continued for years, spanning three states – all originating out of Fort Bend county.

How would our story be different if top law enforcement from Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office put boots on the ground years ago to find our girl? We will never know.

## *A Path Forward*

I felt strongly convicted to use the lessons and experiences we endured to bring about positive change around human trafficking education, prevention and crisis intervention. Therefore, I made the difficult decision to resign from the successful prison ministry I founded in 2007 and built over a decade. The years spent working alongside hundreds of youth detained in Harris County detention centers was truly a gift and privilege.

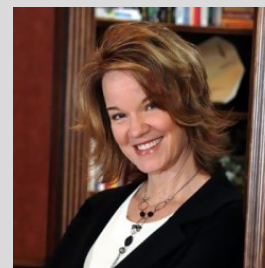
In 2017 I founded Childproof America, a non-profit organization dedicated to filling the gaps we experienced as a family. In two short years we have made great strides, organizing community-wide education seminars and leadership symposiums, presenting at local schools and civic clubs, taking calls and supporting Texas parents whose children are being groomed and trafficked, developing our Family Guides Program and spearheading a national education video curriculum, in partnership with 50 Eggs Films.

Along this path I have met some incredible people who work tirelessly and relentlessly in the fight against human trafficking. Their dedication to the cause is nothing short of admirable and I am honored to learn and grow from their expertise. At the same time, I have been profoundly disappointed by leaders and elected officials who have been entrusted to serve and protect. Parents, use your power and knowledge to elect leaders who will put the safety of your children first.

## *Empowerment Over Fear*

The greatest advice I can give to parents is to understand how human trafficking works. How can this evil pierce the protective bubble of your child's life? Don't live in fear that at any moment your child is going to be lured away from you, but rather, get informed, be aware and stay diligent.

***Childproof America is dedicated to our precious daughter who we love unconditionally and every life who has fallen victim to this devastating crime.***



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For more information about our programs, upcoming events and ways you can help, please visit our site at [www.ChildproofAmerica.org](http://www.ChildproofAmerica.org).