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Undercover Katy human-trafficking sting yields 47 arrests in 10 days

By [Rebecca Hennes](#) Published 10:23 am CDT, Wednesday, April 24, 2019



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Dozens of people were arrested in an

undercover, human-trafficking sting conducted in the Katy area last month, according to local law enforcement officials.

Houston Police Department Sgt. John Wall said during a press conference Wednesday that 22 local, state and federal agencies partnered up for "Operation Tri Point" over the period of March 19-28 to tackle human trafficking in Katy and Fort Bend County.

Wall said 47 people were arrested in total; 27 of whom were females, 20 were males. Eight were confirmed victims and eight were charged with human-trafficking related offenses. Wall said other charges such as sexual assault of a child, possession of a controlled substance and unlawful carrying of a weapon were also filed.

"What we know is that human trafficking is occurring. It's not just an inner city problem," Wall said. "It's occurring out in the suburbs. It's occurring in smaller communities." The youngest victim was 16 years old and another victim was a runaway, according to Wall. He added most of the recruiting occurs online and through social media. "I would say as much as 90 percent [occurs online] and through social media," Wall said. "Young adults spend an enormous amount of time on social media and they are vulnerable...They don't understand the risk involved."

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Wall did not explain how the task force apprehended the traffickers and discovered the victims, but said resident tips and help from the community played a part in similar undercover stings. Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton said the sting is a step in the right direction toward eliminating trafficking in

the area. "My office is committed to eradicating this problem in Fort Bend County," Middleton said. "We realize it's a serious issue and we are committed to combating it and making sure that Fort Bend County is safe and that these traffickers are run out of our county."

Wall said the victims uncovered in the investigation will be given the appropriate support and services they need. "We understand they are scared to come forward but we are going to do everything we can in our power to give them the services they need to move forward with their life," Wall said.

According to Wall, many of the cases were first-degree felonies that can carry a sentence of 20 to 99 years in prison. He said some of the cases will be filed in federal court and can have mandatory sentencing of 20 to 40 years in prison. Wall said the investigation is still ongoing and other possible victims could be uncovered. "Through time hopefully we will develop more leads and identify other victims and that's our goal in these operations," Wall said. "This process could take months."

Wall added similar undercover operations will be conducted throughout the Houston area.

Article originally published online at the Houston Chronicle. Read article here: <http://bit.ly/>

[CPA UndercoverStingKaty](#)

Dozens arrested in human trafficking operation



Authorities announce dozens of arrests in a human trafficking operation.

KATY, Texas (FOX 26) - Authorities announced dozens of arrested in a human trafficking sting and the recovery of eight human trafficking victims, including two juvenile females.

The Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance Task Force of the Southern District of Texas in conjunction with Katy Police Department and Harris County Precinct 5 Constable Office conducted a two-part operation dubbed "Operation Tri-Point" from March 19 to March 28.

As many as 47 arrests were made during the investigation including Prostitution (Seller), Prostitution (Buyer), promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution, compelling prostitution, sexual assault of a child and drug and weapons arrests. A total of 20 females and 27 males were arrested. Authorities say eight victims were recovered with the potential of others coming forward.

[Click Here for the Video](#)

Article originally published online at Fox26 Houston. Read article here: <http://bit.ly/>

[CPA_PressConference](#)

In the NEWS

Captured: Katy man wanted in horrific child sex trafficking case is in custody

Author: Michelle Homer Published: 2:28 PM CDT April 23, 2019

KATY, Texas — An accused child sex predator from Katy is back behind bars after his arrest in Washington County. Frank Roberts III was wanted in a horrific child sex trafficking case. Roberts was originally arrested back in February after a 16-year-old runaway told investigators he sexually assaulted her at his Katy apartment after she met him at Greenspoint Mall. Roberts was charged with sexual assault of a child and released after posting a \$30,000 bond. Precinct 5 investigators later uncovered evidence of child sex trafficking that implicated Roberts and three other men. Constable Ted Heap said multiple men took turns sexually assaulting the 16 year old victim before she escaped. "All of the suspects drugged the victim with an assortment of drugs, ranging from marijuana, Xanax and possibly even heroin," Heap said. *Read full article on KHOU website here: http://bit.ly/CPA_WANTEDinKATY*



Love People Not Pixels (LPNP) fights sex trafficking by reducing demand. One of the ways we do this is through our Buyers' Intervention Programs (BIPs). It is through BIPs that LPNP engages directly with arrested sex buyers either at the point of their arrest or through our S.T.A.R. program (see www.lpnp.org for more info).

Recently LPNP worked with HPD in Katy, TX on a reversal operation where 20 men were arrested for soliciting prostitution. We are grateful to HPD for having the courage and foresight to include social services for these men. There are a 1000 different reasons that can lead a person to want to buy another human being for sex. LPNP is committed to getting to get the heart of the issue. \$200 fines and probation won't do that.

Over 80% of the men we speak with on operations like this willingly give us their contact information. Some are desperate for help and want to stop their unwanted and often compulsive sexually behaviors. These BIPs give LPNP a chance to invite these men and their partners into a world of hope, freedom and support. If you would like more information about LPNP's BIP programs or would like to learn how you can be trained to volunteer,

email joe@lpnp.org.

Beau Abdulla, Founder / Director



A Cautionary Tale



Human Sex Trafficking Almost Claimed My Daughter

When you hear the words “human trafficking,” what comes to mind? Do you understand how terrible it is, but still think to yourself “that’s not something really impacting me personally”?

Maybe it is, and you don’t know it because we are not talking about it enough.

What I am about to tell you is very personal and dear to my heart. Many tears have been shed, and there were countless months of detective work leading to the story I am about to tell you.

Michigan is No. 7 in the nation for human trafficking based on phone calls received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. It crept into the top 10 in 2015, but still falls lower than states like California and Nevada due to the volume of vacationers who visit those states.

Our family’s story all started about five years ago with a 15-year-old boy named Bruce on Instagram. Bruce was seemingly normal in every way. Little did he know, he was the first step in an elaborate human trafficking ring. Like many of our children today, they really do not understand how social media networks spread over the entire world, and with that come serious threats if not monitored.

Bruce was a “friend” to quite a few of the girls in my daughter’s circle of friends on social media, and they would chat daily. Bruce also had many friends who were being introduced into the circle, and they all began to chat through Instagram and Kik. Shortly after their introduction, I began to see a change in my daughter; she was becoming secretive and sneaky, and being that I fully understand how far the internet reaches and how quickly things can get out of control, I checked up on my daughter on a regular basis. I would say at least biweekly, I would grab her tablet after she went to sleep and dig into her messages and pictures to see if things looked appropriate.

Story continued on next page.

A Cautionary Tale

I noticed an unusual time gap in some messages and images, but I truly didn't think anything of it until about two weeks later. One night, I had a funny feeling and grabbed her tablet to do what I thought would be just another normal check. What I found to this day haunts my mind and makes my heart sink.

It began with a picture, a questionable, inappropriate image for a girl her age, and the sexy pose set my red flag on fire. So my digging turned into a manhunt, checking *everything* in all her accounts.

You see, Bruce was a real boy, and he was totally naïve to the “friends” he had in his circle. As I finished my digging into her accounts, all I was left with were tears in my eyes and a burning fire in my heart to destroy every boy on her Instagram account — and it was just the beginning.

I harnessed the power of Google to look up and research the secondary accounts of some of the friends in this circle (not something children think, or are willing, to do). Once I saw that four of the “friends” in the circle were clearly adult men, my heartbreak turned to anger and rage. After about two days of endlessly scouring the internet for info on these *men*, I came to the conclusion that I needed to take action with the police. We were quickly met by the detective of the Cyber Task Force of Portage Police Department and access to all our technology was requested.

After seven months, they called us in to report the most terrifying words I have ever heard: “Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, can you and your family please come to the police station as soon as possible?” — *not* something you ever want to hear.

After we arrived, we entered a small conference room in the back of the Portage Police Station and began to listen as the detective explained how my digging may have saved my daughter from abduction.

Story continued on next page.

A Cautionary Tale

Bruce was, like I said, a normal 15-year-old boy. What I didn't know was that the men who were acting as his "friends" had set Bruce up as a scout. His was the first safe face that our children see; he was unknowingly luring young girls into his circle as prey for the men to pick and choose from. The circle of Bruce's friends list reached the globe, and his over 2,000 followers were nothing more than a smorgasbord of young, unaware children whom these men were chatting with. *Our children.*

This is not someone else's problem; this is, right here, right now, and real as the tears I shed for the innocence that was stolen from my daughter. My beautiful girl was prey for these monsters; she was quickly approaching a meetup (in her words), and I fear that I may have never seen my daughter again.

I hope this triggers fear in the hearts of every one of you. Dig into your children's accounts, ask them questions, and tell them not to have "friends" they don't actually know. I had no idea just how close I came to never seeing my daughter again. It's worth the upset it may cause your child to keep them safe. If you do not know or understand what to look for or how to monitor your child's social media use, then ask someone who does, someone you feel you can trust with the life of your child.

This picture (above) of my daughters may have been the last picture I had with both of them together. This was taken around the time Haylee met Bruce.

For more information, contact National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1 (888) 373-7888.

Article originally published online at Her View From Home. Read article here: <http://bit.ly/>

[CPA STAlmostClaimedMyDaughter](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Executive Director, Kelly Litvak, will be speaking at the following venues in May:

- ⇒ Thrive Community Church, **May 5th** Sunday service. 29255 FM 1093, Fulshear, TX 77441
- ⇒ Cypress Texas Tea Party, Sat. **May 11th**, noon-2:00. Spring Creek BBQ, 25831 Northwest Freeway, Cypress, TX 77429
- ⇒ The Woodlands United Methodist Church, **Wed. May 29th** 7-9pm, 2200 Lake Woodlands Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380



Would you like to have our Executive Director, Kelly Litvak, come speak at your event? Please email ChildproofAmerica@gmail.com for more information.



Speaking Request >>

Would you like to have Kelly Litvak come speak at your next event?

Email your request to ChildproofAmerica@gmail.com
Click here to email.

ChildproofAmerica.org

**Safeguarding Families Against
Sex Trafficking**

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Current Needs: How you can help right now!

- ◆ Sign up to receive Childproof America information in your mailbox. Email Cindy@ChildproofAmerica.org with your address.
- ◆ Sign up to be a part of our 500 for \$25 campaign, visit [site](#) for more details
- ◆ Talk to your church group about working with our Family Guides Program. We need volunteers & life-changers.
- ◆ Follow us on social media to see our App of the Week articles, great information and current events! If you have a favorite post, please share it so other can have this useful information as well.

Follow us on social media



Childproof America empowers families in the battle against sex trafficking. Our mission is to educate, equip and support America's parents in the protection and defense of their children, and improve the quality of aid to impacted families. As advocates, we provide legislative pathways for concerned Americans to enforce harsh penalties to those violating the innocence of our children.

Have you been to any of our recent events and want to leave us feedback? Is there a certain app you would like us to cover for our Wednesday App of the Week posting? Email us your questions and feedback to ChildproofAmerica@gmail.com

We want to know how we can help you!

**Sincerely,
Your Childproof America Team**

