A few notes

Remember to visit TAT at the ACT Expo May 4-7 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. ACT Expo has pledged a portion of the event’s total registration revenue in donation to TAT, as well as provided exhibit space for TAT’s educational mobile trailer, the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP), in the expo hall. Check out the ACT Expo website, www.actexpo.com.

Thank you for your patience, loyalty and continued support while we worked through the hacking of our Facebook site in March. Thank you to FB staff, who worked diligently to restore our page and get us up and running again.

Notable Quotes

Why are you a TAT?

I was one of these girls years ago. I survived by the grace of God. My husband drives a semi tow truck. Traci C.

I work in the criminal justice system when I’m not behind the wheel of the truck. Every human being has the right to live free of fear or violence, abuse of any kind from anyone else. Aw K.

Human trafficking in the news

Fighting the filth of human trafficking with miniature bars of soap

A filthy secret lurks in the shadows of every major event where people stay in hotels -- the Super Bowl, the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. Each has active prostitution, staffed by trafficked women. Lured, kidnapped, coerced, they’re modern-day sexual slaves. Click here to read more.

Report raises alarms over child sex trafficking in Mississippi

At least 90 children in central Mississippi are victims of child sex trafficking, and many are sold for money and drugs by their own parents, according to an alarming new study. The report, released by Beautiful Ones Ministries and Belhaven University, focused on four counties in the Jackson area with interstates connecting from all directions, making it a central "hub" for sex trafficking in the southeastern U.S. The authors found that trafficking of relatives is frighteningly common, with primary caretakers allowing pedophiles to use children for sex in exchange for money, drugs, or shelter. Click here to read more.

New TCA Chairman Keith Tuttle: Image is huge issue for industry

Keith Tuttle, incoming chairman of the Truckload Carriers Association, believes his role comes with a mission to deliver to the industry and the public the message about the good works, and successful outcomes, that truckers can achieve. Tuttle, who is chairman and founder of Ohio-based Motor Carrier Service, is focused on continuing to enhance programs such as Wreaths Across America, Truckers Against Trafficking and TCA’s Highway Angel program because "image is a huge issue" for our industry. Click here to read more.
Because I don't believe in slavery. Not all trafficking is comprised of children. There are adult men and women that are being trafficked as well. Know the signs; know the people; take a stand. Ken D.

TAT releases new training tools this month

New training tools for human trafficking prevention and intervention, including an updated training video and a new interactive, online training curriculum, will be available this month through TAT's website.

"We released our first training video in early 2011," said TAT Executive Director Kendis Paris. "The progress the trucking industry has made in combating domestic sex trafficking since then is tremendous, and we wanted our premiere training tool to not only highlight their efforts, but also speak to the numerous locations members of the trucking industry, including local drivers, can recognize and report human trafficking situations. Moreover, our online training curriculum provides another medium for bringing even more in-depth training to our audiences."

While different in format and form, both tools provide valuable information, often in question and answer arrangement, regarding what human trafficking is, many of the locations where it exists, what it will most likely look like and the steps a person should take once it is recognized. The online curriculum even has a number of scenarios for specific employee groups of the trucking/travel plaza industry, and a section for parents to help keep their children safe from exploitation.

Both tools - the video and the online curriculum - will go live on the TAT website in April. Watch for them.

MATS 2015 busy time for TAT team

The Mid-America Trucking Show in Louisville, Kentucky proved a busy time for the TAT team members who worked the booth area. Record-breaking crowds ensured that thousands of trucking industry members interacted with the TAT team, heard about human trafficking, learned what they could do to prevent it and received TAT materials. Approximately 30-40 percent of the people who stopped at the booth, or close to 2000 people, took the additional time needed to tour the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP).

After touring, MATS participant Peggy Visser commented, "The actual articles from the survivors made this real for me. They're human beings whose lives have been destroyed."

Pam Merritt, another MATS attendee, said, "This is information the average person doesn't think about or is even aware of."
Kylla Lanier, left in vest, talks to a crowd of MATS attendees about human trafficking.

Lisa Agngarayngay from Great Dane, an FDP sponsor, came to take pictures and tour the FDP.
This trucking member learned about some of the factors that pull victims into human trafficking.

Sirius XM radio personalities Dave Nemo, left, and Tim Ridley sat with TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier at the TA/Petro Citizen Driver Award luncheon.
The TAT team consisted of, L to R, Kylla Lanier, Lyn Thompson, Bill Brady, Laura Cyrus, Elizabeth Gerrior, and Helen Van Dam.

Love's saves the day!

When an Oklahoma snow storm resulted in the cancellation of the March 5 coalition build in Oklahoma City, after both the Freedom Driver's Project (FDP) and the survivor advocate, who had flown in from Arizona to train participants at the meeting, were in place, Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores saved the day.

A TAT gold corporate sponsor and partner in the fight against human trafficking, Love’s had TAT bring the FDP and Beth Jacobs, the survivor advocate, to their corporate headquarters for a private training day. More than 100 corporate employees toured the FDP and were able to interact with Beth. Thank you, Love’s! It was a great opportunity to get to know you better!

The Oklahoma coalition build has been rescheduled for July 23, 2015 in Oklahoma City.
From left, Beth Jacobs, survivor-advocate, spoke to many of the Love's corporate employees as they toured the Freedom Drivers Project.

New student curriculum empowers youth to stay safe from exploitation

A ground-breaking prevention curriculum, slated for nationwide release on April 1, uses peer experiences and empathy-developing discussion to help youth, from seventh grade on up, navigate vulnerabilities in their lives to remain safe from a wide range of exploitation, from bullying to child sex trafficking.

Click here to read more about this exciting new program.

Upcoming Events
April 3 - Mark Brown, TAT Board president; Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director; and Lyn Thompson, TAT communications specialist, present TAT's Harriet Tubman Award at Conway Headquarters in Joplin, MO.

April 24 - Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presents to the Alabama Trucking Association

April 25 - Laura Cyrus, TAT administrative specialist, and the FDP, with Helen Van Damm, FDP director, at the CMCA Top Tech Competition at the Lincoln College of Technology in Denver

April 27 - Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, will be at the National Private Truck Council Conference in Cincinnati, OH

What is TAT?

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a non-profit organization that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize the trucking industry to combat human trafficking as part of their regular jobs. Domestic sex trafficking occurs along our nation's highways and at its truck stops, where traffickers can sell their victims to a transient population they believe are less likely to attempt rescue. In response, TAT is asking the 3 million domestic truckers, as well as other members of the trucking industry, to become aware of this issue, and, when they suspect a human trafficking case, to call the national hotline and report it. Visit our website at www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org to learn more.