PROJECT STAY GOLD

A STUDENT MOVEMENT TO ABOLISH MODERN DAY SLAVERY
Movements begin when people are pushed and motivated by a cause that is greater than themselves. In the case of Project Stay Gold, young people are highly sensitive to issues of injustice and are motivated by empathy to make a difference and to bring about positive change in our world. Project Stay Gold believes that our students have the capacity to be abolitionists. Students face the shocking statistics of our day: there are an estimated 27 million slaves around the world; the largest number in human history. 27 million slaves around the world; the largest number in human history. They remain committed to the fight at hand, despite the billions of dollars of profit made through the exploitation of others their own age. Human trafficking is the world’s second largest illegal crime. According to the United States Department of Justice, 100,000 people are trafficked through the United States each year. Project Stay Gold wants to start a conversation, lighting a candle that illuminates the dark underbelly of modern day slavery. Using the power of education, Project Stay Gold hopes to raise awareness, advocate for abolition, and support rescue and prevention missions. Project Stay Gold seeks to awaken a modern-day abolitionist movement among the students inside our schools and our classrooms.

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In 2011, Kate, then an eighth grade student, sparked the idea that would lead to Project Stay Gold at Jefferson Township Middle School, in Morris County, NJ.

After learning about slavery in social studies class, she was shocked to learn about its modern day equivalent, human trafficking. Kate was shocked that she had never been aware of despite its overwhelming rates of occurrence throughout the world. She was disgusted with the mass, covert exploitation, and approached her social studies teacher in an attempt to do something about it. Interest grew from other students in the school, and before long, the group's initial vision was simple, spreading awareness about an unknown crime through education.

After establishing the club in her middle school, graduating students brought the movement to Jefferson Township High School. They were buoyed by Mr. Papa’s arrival at the school not long after. The group launched its website, bracelets branded with the word “abolitionist” and t-shirts that carried the branded merchandise that they had used to fundraise with had all sold out. Enlisted the support of young members of the school, and before long, the group’s initial vision was simple, spreading awareness about an unknown crime through education. Students worked together to create PowerPoint's and other teaching aids, and were granted the ability to go and teach in the middle school’s 6th and 7th grade history classes. There they taught in the Middle School’s 6th and 7th grade history classes.

Presentation skills to match their more mature environment. Commissioned the creation of professionally created videos, and refined their approach, and approached her social studies teacher in an attempt to do something about it. Interest grew from other students in the school, and before long, the group's initial vision was simple, spreading awareness about an unknown crime through education.

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Project Stay Gold is determined to continue raising awareness regarding human trafficking, and to implement chapters “anchors” in schools. Altogether, an attention was assisted by the work of Project Stay Gold advisors and members.

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In turn, they gained recognition from local and state governments, as well as outside organizations fighting the same cause. As the members of Project Stay Gold Gold invited to the New Jersey State House to present in front of officials and state attorneys general. In turn, they gained recognition from local and state governments.

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The name of our organization, Project Stay Gold, carries significant meaning. In eighth grade, students studied The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton at the same time that they were making their initial discoveries about human trafficking. While reading the novel, students were struck by the importance of innocence and the need to preserve it. The quote "Stay gold, Ponyboy, stay gold." is the basis for the name of Project Stay Gold. In the novel, this quote reflects a need for preserving the innocence of children, and by extension, the innocence of ourselves. Project Stay Gold aims to stop human trafficking from happening by spreading awareness and advocating prevention methods. We endeavor to make a difference, to preserve the innocence of children, and fight so that in the future, the beauty of childhood is never stolen under the pretense of abuse and exploitation. By urging young people to "stay gold," Project Stay Gold seeks to protect children from being taken at a young and vulnerable age to be used and exploited, through the commercial sex trade, forced labor or other forms of bondage. To preserve the innocence of children, the exploited and the weak, we urge a robust response to raise awareness and protect them.
Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. An estimated 27 million people remain in bondage or captivity, working tirelessly for no pay. Human trafficking is growing rapidly as it inches closer to the dangerous title of most lucrative illicit operation, worldwide. The reason behind this lies in the "product" at the center of human trafficking, similar to drugs or arms, but unlike drugs or arms, the "product" is human beings. They are used as commodities, as human traffickers not only charge a fee for their sale, but also for their continual use. Human trafficking encompasses a variety of crimes that involve the oppression of a criminal, forced prostitution, at this very moment, countless young people work under forced labor with respite. Forced labor manifests itself in many different areas: fieldwork, sweatshop labor, military engagements, domestic servitude, and sex slavery, forced labor, and forced labor of their basic human rights. Child slavery is one of the three main classifications that different types of human trafficking encompass. People of all ages are victims of human trafficking, forced into unending labor with respite. Clarity is key and understanding human trafficking as it exists is vital in order to plan meaningful efforts at reconciliation and abolition. People remain in bondage or captivity, working tirelessly for no pay. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. An estimated 27 million people remain in bondage or captivity, working tirelessly for no pay.

Project Stay Gold 4 The Issue
Sex slavery is human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation.

Unstable economic conditions,

Limited educational opportunity,

Desire to find a stable family unit,

Cycles of foster care or child protective services,

History of abuse,

Poverty,

People, especially young and naïve females, are sold or deceptively lured into the sex industry due to a number of factors.

Brothels of the commercial sex industry are ran by modern day slave owners, known as “pimps”, and result in forced sexual acts, with young girls, held under the guise of mental, physical and substance abuse.

Despite generalizations, however, there is no quintessential victim; anyone victim of sex trafficking, regardless of the tactics used by the perpetrator.

Any minor under the age of 18 induced into the commercial sex trade is a victim of sex trafficking, regardless of the tactics used by the perpetrator.

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Sex slavery encompasses many different forms, including forced prostitution, pornography involving minors, and sex tourism. Prostitution, though illegal in most countries, is a prime way for human traffickers to exploit and control their victims. Perpetrators hold power over the young girls they control through threats of violence to their families. Deportation or the withholding of government documents. Psychological conditioning makes the victim weak, compromising her ability to fight back. They lure their victims with the promise of a high-paying job, a romantic relationship or guidance through the immigration and visa process. However, pimps then turn to the implementation of various control tactics, and use the power of emotional manipulation, false security and promises, as well as threats of physical abuse to coerce victims into meeting and servicing “John’s.” These encounters are organized by the pimps for their own profit.

Sex trafficking could possibly exist in the United States under the façade of massage businesses, online escort services, and residential brothels, but also in hotels and restaurants, strip-clubs, city streets and truck stops. In order to take the first step in reducing the 3,609 cases of sexual slavery that the Polaris Project reports occur in the United States each year, understanding the issue and working towards prevention is vital.
The term slavery often conjures images of Antebellum America, men working on plantations, picking cotton in unbearable heat. This visualization, though accurate in plantation life, is much more transparent than the obscure, covert means through which forced labor occurs today.

In today's world, forced labor occurs in factories, in restaurants or in homes. Labor traffickers could include employers, contractors, or other middle men, who use varied forms of coercion to force victims into working for little or no pay. Some are forced into debt bondage until they pay off excessive amounts of debt that they never owed in the first place. Victims of modern day slavery work in manufacturing, agriculture, and construction, as well as in the domestic sector.

Global estimates, including the United Nations, International Labor Organization and the National Trafficking Resource Center, report that there are 14.2 million people trapped in the chains of forced labor. Victims of modern day slavery include children, men, women, and people of all ages.

Victims of modern day slavery face difficulty in returning home if necessary. U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, men, women, and children of all ages can be subjected to this form of exploitation. In the United States, this type of human trafficking manifests itself in domestic servitude, debt bondage, and forced labor. Large companies, including Nike and Apple, for example, use sweatshops in Asia to manufacture their products.

For example, carpet factories in India, where children are used to manufacture textiles, are a form of coerced labor. Migrant workers who travel to find work take the risk of being exploited in a land where they do not know the language, have a network of support, and often times, the means of returning home. When they do not know the language, have a network of support, and when they do not have the means of returning home, they fall victim to forced labor.

Large companies, including Nike and Apple, for example, utilize forced labor in their manufacturing process. Manufacturers, including the Foxconn plant in China, utilize forced labor to manufacture their products. In the United States, this type of human trafficking manifests itself in domestic servitude, debt bondage, and coerced labor.

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Children are often the victims of human trafficking because of their innocence and na""""ïveté. Around the world children are recruited, transported, harbored or moved for the purposes of exploitation and profit. Although the problem is more prevalent in nations in South America and Southeast Asia, the United States is not immune to the evils of child slavery. The United States is a source and transit country for would-be trafficking victims, and international hubs and airports that exist across the country provide the venue to carry out the logistics of trafficking operations. The International Labour Organization estimated in 2005 that between 980,000 and 1,225,000 children were in situations that could be classified as forced labor. It is through prevention that the greatest work can be done. By recognizing potential solutions include prevention, law enforcement, and victim assistance.

It is through prevention that the greatest work can be done. By recognizing potential solutions include prevention, law enforcement, and victim assistance, but on the streets of our nation as well. Child slavery is among the most heart wrenching of all the different types of human trafficking, as its victims are helpless and ruthlessly used, being denied the innocence and growth that the formative childhood years normally provide. Project Stay Gold, as a group, has been linked to forced or child labor, according to the Polaris Project. The U.S. Department of Labor has recognized at least 1,225 goods whose production can be traced to human trafficking. According to the Polaris Project, forced labor includes bonded labor, child labor, and the forms of child labor range from household servitude, to drug or dangerous, and the forms of child labor include forced begging and bonded labor. The workplace can be hazardous in conditions that grossly violate their human rights. The workplace constraints that are closely overlapped with employers who underpay and allow young children to work, this labor can be hazardous. The need for preventive action is crucial to stop the cycle of human trafficking situations.
The main objective of Project Stay Gold is to spread a message of education and prevention to other schools. These chapters will be comprised of students and educators motivated to make a change, and provide them with the resources and support network necessary to enact that dream. To start a Project Stay Gold chapter in your school, there are a few things to consider.

1. Educate Yourself

It is vital to understand modern day slavery, to be armed with facts and statistics, to supplement your argument. Research the issue more thoroughly, utilizing the resources provided not only in this manual, but literature, non-profit webpages and other resources.

2. Find an Advisor

An advisor is an essential member of your club. Your advisor will act as a mentor, overseeing chapter plans and activities, while coordinating efforts with your school administration and the appropriate officials, depending on your individual school system. The advisor will act as a supervisor and enable, overseeing chapter plans and activities, while coordinating efforts with your and your students. The mutual learning and respect that can take place when educators and students come together to make a difference is critical. Human trafficking is an issue for all ages, and it is vital to bring the issue to the attention of your school.

The story of a human trafficking survivor, incorporating the emotional power of their tale to help craft the message and the unique spin you want to bring to the issue in your school. Incorporate the emotional power of their tale to help craft the message and the unique spin you want to bring to the issue in your school.

If you are interested in starting a Project Stay Gold chapter in your school, please contact the national organization at staygold@staygold.org. They will provide you with the necessary information and support to get started.
After initiating the club in your school, invite peers to join your initiative. By recruiting members, you plant the seeds of a movement in your school or community. A few methods of recruiting could be posters, morning announcements, and activity fairs. Be sure to invite people from all backgrounds and interests, and cater to each member's skills and preferences. By harnessing the full range of talents from your student body, you will begin to diversify. It is important to remain organized and have members report back to the advisors or peer leaders. Students who enjoy writing could help craft speeches or documents, while the tech-savvy could create a website or social media. Consider incorporating an artistic or musical component to your group. By making the group fun and exciting, membership will grow.

Adapt the activities of your individual chapter to best serve the needs of your local community, and begin planning your initial efforts to raise awareness and spread the word. Getting a club started, and each environment will also bring its own preferences. Every school has a different process for getting a club started, and each environment will also bring its own preferences. After initiating the club in your school, invite peers to join your initiative. By recruiting members, you plant the seeds of a movement in your school or community. A few methods of recruiting could be posters, morning announcements, and activity fairs. Be sure to invite people from all backgrounds and interests, and cater to each member's skills and preferences. By harnessing the full range of talents from your student body, you will begin to diversify. It is important to remain organized and have members report back to the advisors or peer leaders. Students who enjoy writing could help craft speeches or documents, while the tech-savvy could create a website or social media. Consider incorporating an artistic or musical component to your group. By making the group fun and exciting, membership will grow.

Organize Your Efforts

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Encourage Membership

Project Stay Gold

What You Can Do
After the hard work of initiation and recruitments finally settles into a stable group of excited individuals, it is time to begin planning your chapter’s opening activities. First, build that all-important base of knowledge, personnel and resources. Work with advisors and administrators to cultivate a diverse talent pool, and utilize the talents of each individual to contribute to the vision of the group as a whole.

Chapter initiatives can also include fundraising. Consider the creation of branded merchandise, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, bracelets or locker magnets. At presentations and other outings, bring merchandise and any other resources to show the diverse talents of your group.

Funds raised can be donated to established anti-trafficking organizations, like the Polaris Project or other outlets, or be used to host events, like awareness nights, or to build awareness and resources. Consider hosting an awareness night at a visible, inviting environment, like a school, public library or other community center. Invite speakers who are experts on human trafficking, like law enforcement agents and advocates for human rights. After the awareness night, schedule an awareness night at a visible, inviting environment, like a school, and look towards the future to continue spreading knowledge.

As an awareness group, spreading knowledge is a principle task of each chapter. With that in mind, the creation of tools to help raise awareness is key. Create a presentation that can be delivered to multiple audiences. Consider a PowerPoint or Prezi, and look towards the resources given to you as examples to build off of. Consider variations when giving presentations to students, as opposed to adults. In general, consider the age and appropriateness of topics for your audience. Depending on your audience, work to make connections with local community leaders to find venues to give presentations.
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A Student Movement To Abolish Modern Day Slavery

E-Mail: projectstaygold@gmail.com
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