

Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Dear Samantha,

President Obama has declared January 2015 as **National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month** - "At home and around the globe, we must continue to fight for human dignity and the inalienable rights of every person."

While this issue transcends across all walks of life, some individuals in the disability spectrum are highly vulnerable to becoming victims to crimes in general, especially to slavery and human trafficking. Global awareness is a major deterrent to this issue. The role of the first responder is key in prevention.

[Click here to read the announcement](#)

First Responders Disability Awareness Training

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Recent News

[Students learn to speak without talking in 'No Voice Zone'](#)

[Feds: IDEA Still Applies When Students Incarcerated](#)

[Former teen firefighter shares dangers of the job](#)

[ABLE Act signed into law](#)

Relevant Webinars/Workshops

["Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders in the Classroom"](#)

By Susan Conners -
President/Founder of the
Tourette Syndrome
Association of Greater NY

Geneva Police Department Conducts Training, Featured in Local News



In December 2014, Project Director Dave Whalen conducted a Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Train the Trainer in Rochester, NY to an audience representing 10 police departments. Just one month later, **Geneva Police Lieutenant Michael Passalacqua** from the provided the training for his department. After going through the FRDAT Train the Trainer, Lt. Passalacqua emailed this statement:

"Dave clearly has a passion for the work that he is doing and it is evident in the way he presented the material. I have attended quite a few trainings in the 11 years I have been doing this job and this one ranks right at the top. This is a topic that I didn't realize covered so much and is so important to our jobs every day. So on behalf of the Geneva Police Department I would like to thank you for the opportunity to pass along this important training to the officers of the Geneva Police Department."

As you can see by his unsolicited testimony, he had initial doubts about the importance of this training, however, he quickly realized that this needs to be carried out in every police department.

Click the image above for the news coverage of the Geneva training.

January 24 at Museum of disABILITY, Buffalo, NY

The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice & Disability:

Next webinar: "Wrapping Up Year 1" - January 29

ADA National Network FEMA Webinar Series:

Emergency Management & Preparedness - Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Next webinar: Feb. 12

Are you interested in our training?

NEW YORK STATE FIRST RESPONDERS

- if you are interested in the FF/EMS, LE, or 911 Operators Train the Trainer program, we are putting together our spring training schedule. Contact us for more information.

OUT OF STATE FIRST RESPONDERS

- for more information to bring our training program to your region, contact us.

Project Director Travels to Arkansas



While the Arkansas training program has been in motion for a few months now, Project Director Dave Whalen will be in Little Rock January 26-29 to begin customization of this state's curriculum.

Meetings will be held with representatives from the Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, Arkansas Fire Academy, Arkansas EMS Department, Little Rock Fire Department, and the Criminal Justice Institute. An advisory council, representative of the disability community, will also be convening during this trip.

For more information on how to bring this program to your state, contact our office.

Tower Foundation Approves Grant

The **Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation** awarded a one-year \$85,000 grant to the First Responder Disability Awareness Training program. This will ensure training is conducted throughout Erie (NY) and Niagara (NY) counties as well as firmly establish Western New York as the national training and resource center for disability awareness for first responders across the country. NU sincerely appreciates generous support of the Tower Foundation.

New Jersey CDD Features FRDAT in Magazine

Planning is in motion for the introduction of the First Responder Disability Awareness Training program in the state of New Jersey. Funding for this program was provided by the **New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities**, who also featured FRDAT in their Winter 2015 issue of "People & Families" magazine.

[Click here to read the article](#) (scroll to page 22)