



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **RTD Host its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Event for Employees**

Stockton, CA— On Wednesday, January 11, San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) hosted its first annual Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention workshop at its Downtown Transit Center. Representatives from the Women Center - Youth and Family Services and the Stockton Police Department's VICE unit spoke to RTD employees about identifying signs of human trafficking and what steps they can take if they suspect trafficking is occurring.

The presentations featured topics on prevention methods, identifying victims of human trafficking, understanding exploitation dynamics, and recognizing indicators of possible victimization or recruitment into trafficking situations. Attendees also learned how to report instances of potential trafficking to stop the cycle and the importance of online safety through social media awareness.

RTD employees showed solidarity and support for the cause by wearing blue attire and custom-designed buttons on Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The buttons were designed to bring awareness to human trafficking issues while allowing RTD employees to help spread the message of prevention by showing their commitment to ending the cycle of exploitation in our community.

"We are committed to creating a safe and secure environment for our employees, passengers, and community. This event provided RTD staff with the critical information they need to identify signs of human trafficking and help reduce cases and it is a good first step," said RTD CEO Alex Clifford. "We must continue to work together to help prevent human trafficking from happening in our community."

[QUOTE FROM THE WOMEN'S CENTER HERE]

The community can join RTD in the fight against human trafficking. If you or someone you suspect is a victim of human trafficking, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "HELP" to 233733, or contact the Women's Center - Youth and Family Services at (209) 941-2611 for help. You can also contact your local law enforcement for assistance.

San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is the regional transit provider for San Joaquin County. RTD's mission is to provide a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system for the region. For more information visit [sjRTD.com](http://sjRTD.com), follow RTD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call (209) 943-1111.