

THE ADVOCATE ASPECT



JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH



Human trafficking is a serious issue where people are exploited through force, lies, or threats for different purposes, causing significant harm to their well-being. The consequences are varied, and victims often lose their freedom and control over their lives. They might be forced into activities like violence and servitude.

Many victims deal with things like PTSD, anxiety, and depression due to the trauma they went through. Victims often face dehumanization, treated like objects instead of individuals with rights and dignity.

In labor trafficking, victims endure tough working conditions, facing abuse and receiving inadequate wages or no pay at all. Traffickers use threats or psychological tactics to keep victims under their control, creating a fearful environment that makes escape difficult.

People living in poverty such as children and migrants are more vulnerable to trafficking. Traffickers take advantage of their difficult situations, like socioeconomic hardship or lack of access to quality education. Victims moved across borders may struggle more due to language barriers and fear of authorities, making it harder for them to seek help. Indigenous women and girls, or people who are members of federally recognized tribes are also targets for exploitation due to jurisdictional issues and other societal factors.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

- › Evidence of abuse, injuries, malnourishment, or overall poor health
- › Avoid eye contact, express fear or anxiety, or unable to move freely
- › Exhibit signs of submission or control by someone else
- › Work excessively long hours or live in overcrowded environments
- › Increasing isolation, no longer attending family or social events, limited contact, and deleting people or changing their names/handles on social media



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

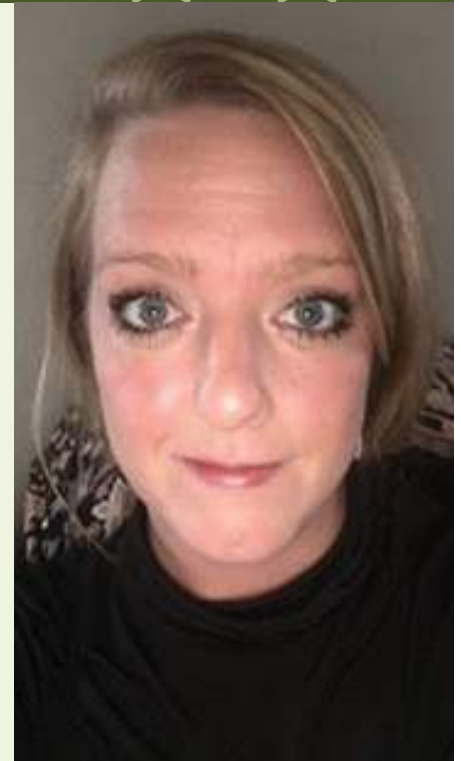


Christy Smith has been with Victim Services for over ten years, having held various roles, including receptionist, MDT coordinator, Community Education, and her current position as MDT and Volunteer Coordinator. She is known for her compassion and caring nature, particularly in her love for working with System Partners and advocating on behalf of children and families. Christy finds joy in witnessing the resilience demonstrated by the families and children she serves.

Outside of work, Christy engages in DIY projects, remodeling her house. She embraces the outdoors, enjoying activities such as camping, hiking, and spending time at the lake with her son and dog. Her favorite animal is the sea turtle, and her preferred color is blue. Christy draws inspiration from her mom and many current and former coworkers.

Overall, Christy Smith leads a diverse and fulfilling life, both personally and professionally, demonstrating a strong commitment to her work and a passion for making a positive impact in the lives of others.

Christy Smith lives by the inspiring motto: "Live for the moment, laugh every day, love with all your heart." This sentiment reflects her positive outlook on life and encourages a mindful and joyful approach to each day.



TRIBAL PROGRAM



The Tribal Program staff are actively planning the activities and events for the upcoming months that will center around our traditional seasons and times of gathering. As Spring approaches, our staff are focused on preparing our program participants and clients for the busy season of prepping beadwork/regalia, gathering roots, and creating baskets for the huckleberry picking.

RRVS has also recently added a new staff member with extensive history in Tribal Court who has been kind enough to provide more in-depth training on Tribal Court forms and procedures. We are grateful for this opportunity to increase our knowledge and enhance client experiences and outcomes.



ruralresources.org/program/tribal-program

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP

Did you know we offer a support group to survivors of domestic violence?

We use positive support and healthy relationship skills to aid survivors in their path forward. We focus on an array of topics such as: self-esteem, self-care, relationship dynamics, parenting and communication styles, boundaries, and much more. Our support group is survivor-driven with a facilitator to help build a strong support system.

**Safe. Confidential.
Non-judgmental.**

If you are interested in joining our support group, please call our office at 509-684-3796.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Want to make a difference? Volunteer!

Volunteers play an essential role in supporting survivors. We provide all necessary training and education to our volunteers. As a new volunteer, you will join a community of supportive people that all have the same goal: supporting survivors, giving hope, and preventing violence.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

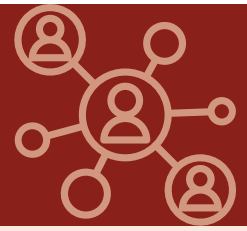
- › **Helpline Volunteers:** Take shifts on our 24-hour helpline from the comfort of your own home. Provide support, crisis intervention and referrals to callers.
- › **Office/Clerical Support:** Assist with clerical projects in the office, and provide coverage at the front desk.
- › **Childcare Provider:** Provide childcare at our office while a parent or caregiver is receiving services at Rural Resources Victim Services.
- › **Fundraising:** Assist with fundraising projects or events.
- › **Community Awareness:** Team up with the Community Engagement Department to increase awareness and provide outreach by attending local fairs and events.

Interested in supporting survivors of crime, violence, and abuse in your community?

Visit ruralresources.org/volunteer or call our office at 509-684-3796 for more information.



CLIENT SERVICES



We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new office in Davenport, WA.

505 1st Street, Suite A
Davenport, WA 99122

You can reach us at (844) 509-SAFE

Stand up.
You're not
alone.
You do not
have to hide.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



We had a fantastic time participating in pop-up events at the Colville Library and Kettle Falls Library. Additionally, we were delighted to be present at the Hunters Food Bank. We look forward to resuming our prevention work after the holidays. It's been a blast engaging with the community, and we're eager to continue making a positive impact.



Follow Along!



@RuralResourcesVictimServices



@RuralVictimHelp



Scan the QR code to sign up for our email list! Receive periodic updates and a digital version of the newsletter.



956 S. Main St. | Colville, WA 99114
505 1st St., Suite A | Davenport, WA 99122

90 N. Clark Ave. #C | Republic, WA 99166
3328 Hall Creek Rd. | Inchelium, WA 99138

Every Victim. Everywhere.
No Exceptions.

24-HOUR HELPLINE
1-844-509-SAFE

www.RuralResources.org



RuralVictimHelp



RuralResourcesVictimServices