

# Human Trafficking Children & Family Services

Hannah Hopper, Human Trafficking Social Worker

February 27, 2020

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**



# Goals

- Awareness
- Victim Identification
- Referrals

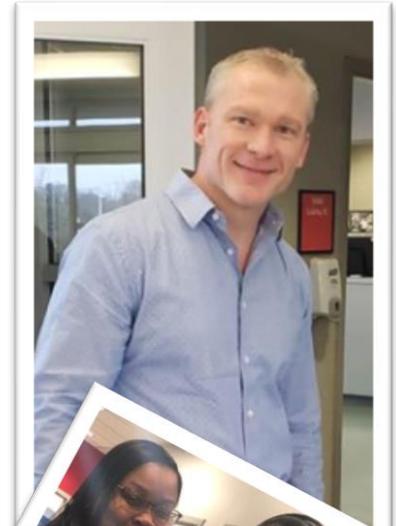


# Strategies

- Community Forums
- Educational Presentations
- Local Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Community Partner Collaboration



# Awareness Day



# Outcomes

- Trained all child welfare staff
- Trained all public health staff
- Increased awareness
- Improved child-specific outcomes
- Reduced victimization through MDT
- “Playground: The Child Sex Trade in America”
- Community Leader Engagement



# Multi-Disciplinary Team

- Behavioral Health
- Child Advocacy Center
- Faith Community
- Family Justice Center
- Healthcare Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Public Health
- School System
- Social Services



The  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
Children's Advocacy Center  
Gaston County, NC



**PARTNERS**  
Improving Lives.  
Strengthening Communities.

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church*



THE CATHY MABRY  
CLONINGER CENTER  
A Domestic Violence Shelter



Gaston Family  
Health Services



CaroMont Health

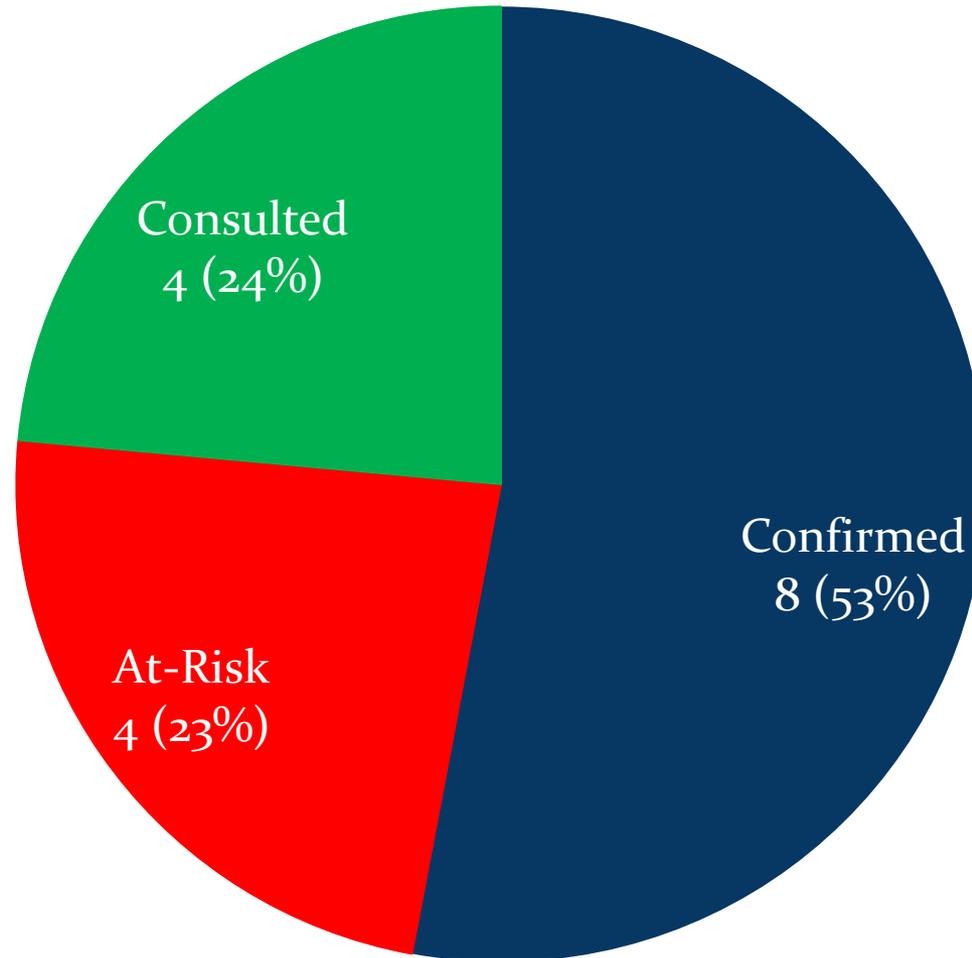


# Community Outreach

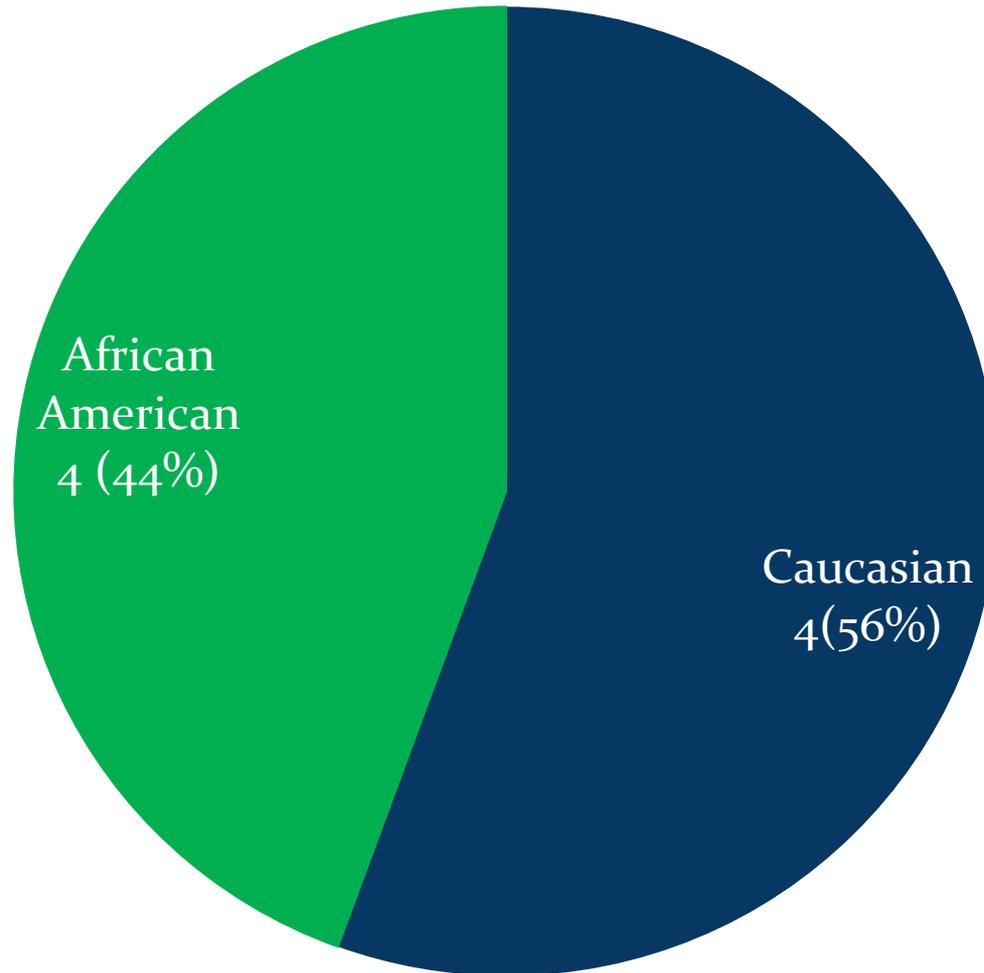
- 6 Awareness Presentations
- 258 Individuals/Professionals Trained
- 19 Community Meetings
  - 8 – DHHS
  - 11 – Other Agencies
- 5 Regional Response Meetings
- 3 Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings



# Victim-Survivors Served



# Confirmed Victim-Survivors



# Successes

- 8 victims identified
- Safety monitoring
- 7 (78%) were runaways and successfully located
- Community partner engagement
- Exploring more appropriate placement options
- Wrap-around services



# Lessons Learned

- **Community Education is Essential**
  - Human trafficking is largely misunderstood
  - Victim / Survivors are often seen as criminals
- **Power and Control**
  - Victim / Survivors often do not self-identify
  - Distrustful of people and services
- **Service Barriers**
  - Victims who are almost 18
  - Those who do not identify as victims



# Questions

Hannah Hopper

704-862-6646

[hannah.hopper@gastongov.com](mailto:hannah.hopper@gastongov.com)

